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August 4, 2014

TO: Audit Committee

FROM: John Naimo
Acting Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **SUNSET REVIEW FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION
ON ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS**

RECOMMENDATION

The Audit Committee recommend to the Board of Supervisors (Board) that the sunset review date for the Los Angeles County Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs (CAOD or Commission) be extended until January 1, 2016.

BACKGROUND

The CAOD was established by County Code Chapter 3.15, and was intended to operate consistent with various State of California Health and Safety Code sections. The Board-approved sunset review date for the Commission was January 1, 2014.

The Commission's duties are to advise and make recommendations to the Board on alcohol and other drug related issues, with the goal to reduce problems and the negative impact of alcohol and other drug use on the quality of life in the County.

The Commission was established to consist of 23 Commissioners, with members of the Board selecting four Commissioners each, and one each nominated by the County Department of Public Health's (DPH) Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) Administrator, the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee, and the president of the Los Angeles County division of the League of California Cities.

County Code Chapter 3.15.060 states that the Commission shall meet once per month, and may meet as deemed necessary by the Chair of the Commission or the SAPC Administrator. Members receive \$25 per meeting, not to exceed \$50 in any month. DPH indicated that the Commission did not incur any costs for Fiscal Year 2012-13.

JUSTIFICATION

The CAOD has not formally met since the Commission was created in January 2010 due to an insufficient number of appointed Commissioners to form a quorum. As a result, the Commission has been unable to carry out their duties to advise and make recommendations to the Board, and has not reported any accomplishments over the past several years. In addition, the Board has never called upon the Commission for advice. The Commission recently indicated that five additional Commissioners have been appointed to the CAOD, which provides a sufficient number to achieve a quorum.

DPH management believes the CAOD has an important mission and should be continued. DPH indicated that the CAOD can provide valuable guidance and recommendations on substance use disorders affecting the County, and serves as a liaison between community residents, and the Board and DPH to ensure emerging substance use issues are addressed. In addition, DPH indicated that CAOD's role is important with the County's implementation of the Affordable Care Act and Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act requirements for health plans that include substance use disorder prevention and treatment services.

Based upon the Commission's recent appointment of sufficient Commissioners to achieve a quorum, we recommend that the Commission's sunset review period be extended two years to provide sufficient time to assess its accomplishments and determine its relevance.

Please call me if you have any questions, or your staff may contact Robert Smythe at (213) 253-0101.

JN:AB:RS

c: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H., Director, Department of Public Health
Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
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Wesley L. Ford, Director, DPH Substance Abuse Prevention and Control
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Twila P. Kerr, Division Chief, Commission Services